



SÜDOSTEUROPA-
GESELLSCHAFT

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Stabilitätspakt für Südosteuropa
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Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe
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International Workshop

Shaping the Future in Macedonia^{*}

Civil society's questions and answers to current issues

Berlin, 28 / 29 October 2013

Conference Venue: European Academy Berlin (EAB)
Bismarckallee 46-48; 14193 Berlin
<http://www.eab-berlin.de/>

Conference committee: Petra **Bläss-Rafajlovski**, Member of the Board, Southeast Europe Association; Berlin
Tobias **Flessenkemper**, Member of the Board, Southeast Europe Association; Berlin
Johanna **Deimel**, Deputy Director, Southeast Europe Association, Munich
Hansjörg **Brey**, Executive Director, Southeast Europe Association, Munich

Conference language: English

The workshop will take place under **Chatham House Rule** in order to facilitate an unrestricted and open exchange of views and ideas.

Background

In 1993, twenty years ago, two years after its independence, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia adhered under this provisional name into the United Nations and gained recognition by the then EU12. Yet, Greece imposed a trade embargo which remained in place until end of 1995 precluding the bilateral tensions lasting and dominating public discourse until today.

Since independence the country has witnessed a period of a profound security, political and societal crisis in the early 2000s. The Ohrid Framework Agreement paved the way for a - in hindsight - short-lived phase of optimism and reform efforts, including in the area of democratization. The EU integration process advanced quickly with Macedonia becoming a candidate country in 2005.

^{*} Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)

However, this momentum seems lost and replaced by a determined nation-building policy with substantive investments in architectural interventions dominating the public space, in particular in the capital Skopje. The underpinning narrative of an exclusive Macedonian state and nationhood leaves little space for alternative narratives and independent civil society, cultural and academic actors. From the outside the *Republic of Macedonia* seems to be turned gradually into a *Republic of Macedonians* in an exclusive national sense – a development that is disenfranchising the Albanian citizenry. At the same time, the EU integration process remains blocked at various levels.

Against the background of these developments, this workshop will bring together individuals from and representatives of civil society, culture, media and academia to stimulate dialogue among them and discuss how the democratization and European integration process can be re-invigorated not least to (re-)build trust and confidence among the citizens.

Following-on to the workshop held in December 2009, this workshop will serve as stock-taking exercise where participants can reconnect to the discussion four years ago. The purpose of this second workshop is to continue the dialogue by bringing together - inter alia - members and representatives of civil society organizations, think tanks, journalists, political parties and international experts.

Monday, 28 October 2013

arrival of participants

17h30

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Presentation of the workshop team and participants

18h30

INTRODUCTORY PANEL

THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION: CIVIL SOCIETY, MACEDONIAN POLITICS AND EU INTEGRATION

Presentation of different positions (government/opposition)

Moderation: Gernot Erlor, MP, President, Southeast Europe Association, Berlin

Rapporteur: Johanna Deimel, Deputy Director, Southeast Europe Association, Munich

Inputs (5 min) by:

Gordan **Georgiev**, MP (Social Democratic Union of Macedonia), National Assembly, Skopje

Emil **Krsteski**, MA, PhD Candidate International Politics, Head of Department, National Assembly, Skopje

20h00

Dinner at the European Academy Berlin

Tuesday, 29 October 2013

09h30

WHERE IS MACEDONIA ON THE EU PATH?

Moderation: Tobias **Flessenkemper**, Partner and Manager elbarlament; Member of the Board, Southeast Europe Association, Berlin

Rapporteur: Hansjörg **Brey**, Executive Director, Southeast Europe Association, Munich

Inputs (5 min) by:

Lidija **Dimova**, Executive Director, Macedonian Centre for European Training (MCET), Skopje

Edmond **Ademi**, Executive Director, Liberta Institute – Political and Economic Research Center, Skopje

Veton **Latifi**, Professor of international relations and political sciences, South East European University, Tetovo

Goran **Rafajlovski**, former Ambassador in Berlin; Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information technology, Saints Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje

Proposed issues for discussion:

- *impact of Croatia's EU accession and regional developments*
- *impact of the economic crisis (Greece)*
- *lessons learned from IPA in Macedonia*
- *view of citizens regarding the EU accession*
- *reasons for the (supposed?) raise of Euro-skepticism*
- *EU progress report and the principle of conditionality*
- *Macedonia outside the EU / NATO for how long? Role of the UN in Macedonia – name dispute and Macedonian road to EU and NATO*
- *European perspective / new modalities for EU enlargement?*
- *EU the only player in town? Any alternatives?*

11h00

Coffee Break

11h30

HOW IMPORTANT AND INFLUENTIAL ARE POLITICAL POPULISM AND IDENTITY CONFLICTS?

Moderation: Andreas **Ernst**, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Belgrade

Rapporteur: Tobias **Flessenkemper**

Inputs (5 min) by:

Orhan **Ceka**, MA, Co-director, Liberal Alternative Institute, Tetovo

Xhabir **Memedi Deralla**, President, CIVIL - Centre for Freedom, Skopje

Ramadan **Ramadani**, Program director, Institute for Free Thinking "Nisma", Skopje

Dane **Taleski**, PhD Candidate, Political Science Department, Central European University (CEU), Budapest

Proposed issues for discussion:

- *census 2011 and its consequences*
- *impact of Skopje 2014 - interethnic relations, foreign policy and domestic policy*
- *interethnic relations and tensions*
- *ethnic segregation; quota system*
- *interethnic relations as an “appropriate” tool for diverting the political process?*
- *media situation*
- *building relations with the neighbors*
- *authoritarian regime gaining momentum?*
- *role of religion / religious organizations*

13h00

Lunch

14h30

WHAT ABOUT THE YOUNG GENERATION?

Moderation: Petra **Bläss-Rafajlovski**, Member of the Board, Southeast Europe Association, Berlin

Rapporteur: Verica **Spasovska**, Head of Central and Southeast Europe, Deutsche Welle; Member of the Board, Southeast Europe Association Bonn

Inputs (5 min) by:

Ivona **Andreevska**, Junior Consultant, VeVe Group Skopje

Neda **Korunovska**, President, Reactor-Research in Action, Skopje

Metodija **Stojčeski**, Youth Alliance – Kruševo

Daniel **Davkovski**, Member of Young European Federalists (JEF) Macedonia, Kumanovo

Proposed issues for discussion:

- *youth between activism and marginalization*
- *resistance, protest or resignation and emigration*
- *youth (un)employment*
- *educational reform*
- *brain waste: are brain gain policies sufficiently using capacities of returnees?*
- *civic engagement: how to bridge the gap between youth and adults?*
- *possibilities and limits for cultural activities*
- *gender inequalities*

16h00

Coffee Break

16h30

WHAT'S NEXT?

Moderation: Christian **Voß**, Institute for Slavonic Philology, Humboldt University of Berlin / Vice President Southeast Europe Association

Rapporteur: Johanna Deimel

Inputs (5 min) by

Sašo **Ordanoski**, Director, Media & Public Affairs, Skopje

Bujar **Luma**, Center for Balkan Cooperation LOJA, Tetovo

Anastas **Vangeli**, M.A., PhD Student, The Graduate School for Social Research, Warsaw

Proposed issues for discussion:

- *cooperation between Macedonian and Greek CSO*
- *Macedonia in 10 years*
- *how to strengthen the capacity of the opposition / CSO / society to re-form the agenda*
- *networking opportunities*
- *civil society in the light of IPA II*
- *influencing political culture*
- *possibility of alternative politics*

18h00

End of the workshop

20h00

Dinner

Wednesday, 30 October 2013

DEPARTURE OF PARTICIPANTS

Conference secretariat:

Ms Gudrun Kuhlmann